The Southern PATRIOT

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It's A People's War

When the Commander-in-Chief spoke to the Nation following the treachery at Pearl Harbor he said, "We're all in it, all the way." He said it is a people's war, and it's the people who will win it. When he spoke he knew he could count on the South and its people to do its full share and more in the perilous struggle for survival in which our country is engaged.

In that spirit of "all the way", of the "people's war", the SOUTHERN PATRIOT appears. We have one concern: the complete and utter mobilization of all the people, Negro as well as white, and resources of the South for the winning of this war. We believe the way we fight this war will determine the kind of peace we get when it is over.

This war is the final test of our will to live. It is a test of our political institutions. It is a test of our traditions. It is a test of our productive capacity. Most of all, it is a test of the manhood of our people.

Others have faced the test and failed. Those peoples have lost contact with their past. They have preferred the trimmings of leisurely living to the hard and bitter steps necessary to make their society into a solid fighting unit against the fascist foe.

But these are not the people of the South. Southern sons are known on the frontiers of this global war as men of courage and will and brave determination.

Southern workers and businessmen, too, have risen to the challenge. From Norfolk to Corpus Christi the ships are sliding down the ways . . . in the mines of Alabama, the coal hills of Kentucky, the textile mills of Carolina, the power and aluminum and chemical plants of the sprawling Tennessee Valley the genius of Southern workers and Southern management is grinding out the tools of war.

Just as management and labor in Southern industry is fighting this war to win, so is Southern agriculture. Hundreds of thousands of farm families, short-handed, short of tools, are toiling long hours in Southern fields to bring out of this soil the foods and fats and fibres needed to establish the free world victory.

THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT will describe the work of these Southern warriors and workers. We will tell the challenging story of the South mobilized for war. And we will persistently point out ways in which the South and its people can make greater and greater contributions to the common cause.

We need new plants, new dams. We need credit for our small farmers. We need training schools in and out of industry. We need to speed the conversion of our peacetime facilities to the hungry demands of war. We need a better distribution of our labor supply. We need to diversify our agriculture to increase the production of milk, and eggs, and meat, and vegetables.

These things the SOUTHERN PATRIOT will explain and urge in order that this region may do more and still more in the winning of the final victory for the United Nations.

But man lives not by bread alone. Soldiers fight not with guns alone. Workers, businessmen, farmers produce not with machines and land alone. Back of these must be the will to win.

There must be refusal to submit, to appease, to surrender rooted deep

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Small Farmers Seen as Best Hope for More Production

When Rubber Czar Robert Jeffers hammered on the table in the Senate Agriculture Committee and declared he was going to expand rayon production for tire building come hell or high water, some Southerners thought it was the blow that killed King Cotton. Indeed, Southern Governors said as much in a full-page ad the next day in the Washington Post and allowed it would kill the South as well.

But what the Governors overlooked was the fact that Rubberman Jeffers may have been doing Southern agriculture the best turn since Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.

Reliance on cotton has spelled the doom of hundreds of thousands of Southern farmers, big and little. Now, with a fighting Nation and its allies desperately in need of

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Nelson Expects Labor-Management Plan To Up War Output 25 Percent

Two events occurred in Washington October 20 which present a tremendous challenge to workers and management in the industrial South:

(1) Donald Nelson met for the first time with a new committee, made up of two industrialists and two representatives of organized labor, to make plans for stepping up U. S. war output 25 per cent. The policy committee of the war production drive will work through 1,650 existing labor-management production committees, and others as they are set up, it was announced.

(2) The Tolan Committee of the House issued a report charging that we are ill-equipped to meet the third and most important phase of the war task, the phase in which victory will hang upon the productiveness of our manpower—military, agricultural and industrial. The productivity of the American worker, his will to win, says the report, will decide this war.

These two things challenge the South because only 90 of those 1,650 committees are to be found in the 13 southeastern states, and because the workers of the South are her most important resource. And those workers will not be utilized to the utmost until they are working under production programs in which the voice of labor plays a part.

There are 29,000 plants in the South. There are labor-management production committees in 82 of them (some plants are big enough to have more than one). There are at least 1,500,000 industrial workers in the South—yet only 200,000 of them are employed in plants where such committees are functioning.

Critics of the labor-management committee program have charged that such an arrangement represents an invasion of management's right to run its plant in its own way. Yet scores of American industrialists, once hostile to the idea, are now loud in their praises of the enormous benefits deriving to management after the brains at

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Missing A Bet

The South is getting the benefit of only 90 of the Nation's 1,650 labor-management production committees in plants producing for war. That means Southern industry is missing a bet. If you own a factory, mill or mine; if you manage a plant; if you work in one—then you should take steps to see that such a committee is established in your shop.

Workers and employers alike are members of such committees. In one plant such a committee figured out ways and means to increase production 300 percent; in another, the committee figured a way to convert from civilian production to war production and saved the jobs of 75 men who would otherwise have been thrown out of work; in another, the accident rate has been cut in half by a committee's work.

If you want to find out how to start such a committee, write to the War Production Drive Headquarters, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C.

"DON'T BE PROVOKED"

Department of Justice Official Praises SCFHW Slogan

By Victor W. Rotnem

Civil Liberties Section, Department of Justice

"Don't Be Provoked", the slogan originated at your recent conference, is the outstanding constructive slogan of the war as far as minority moral questions is concerned. I want to compliment the Southern Conference for Human Welfare for giving it to the Nation.

On a recent trip to the South I showed this slogan to some 100 people in all walks of life. Their response was enthusiastic and this slogan should be used and used and used. It's good. It speaks a wealth of understanding as to what appeals to awareness in thinking beings. "Let's Not Get Mad", is another way of putting it. There is no doubt that much of the racial conflict since the war has been artificially created; I trust that the completion of the primaries sees an end to much of this type of thing.

Investigations of Japanese influence as to the Negro indicates that such as there was did not penetrate into the deep South at all! The soldiers vote act, the poll tax being brought to a vote, dozens of peonage and slavery prosecutions, and test cases as to the right to vote in Southern primaries are issues of grave moment,—yet none of these issues have created tensions.

It seems to me that thinking persons are saying to themselves, "Don't Be Provoked". In fact, "your" slogan is so good it is not "yours" anymore.

Crowded Industrial Cities Hamper South's War Production

"Can I get a house?"

Behind that question lies one of the South's big bottlenecks, plaguing production and presenting dozens of communities with some of war's toughest headaches.

Housing shortages breed dissatisfied workers. Morale falls, and with it production, in the very hour when the Nation needs every worker on the job producing his utmost.

People in Mobile, Norfolk, Huntsville, Hattiesburg and dozens of other towns know the problem at first hand. They see rents climbing. Workers come to town, staying a few days, leave in disgust at housing conditions.

Situation in Mobile

Mobile is typical. In 1940 there were 78,000 residents in that Gulf city. By spring of 1942 18,000 new shipyard workers had arrived —not counting their families. Rents went out of sight. Houses which once brought $25 or $30 a month fetched $50, $60, $70 as harried workers bid up the prices of roofs for their heads.

Rent Ceilings Evaded

Then came the Office of Price Administration's rent control program. Ceilings were fixed for Mobile rents. But still workers were asked to pay high prices for places to live under an ingenious system used by some Mobile landlords: they would "sell" the houses on long-term contracts at high monthly payments, knowing that long before the end of the contract the war would be over and the workers dispersed. Alabama law does not let title change hands until the whole purchase price has been paid.

OPA has halted this practice with a new order, issued October 19, forbidding such "sales" as direct violations of the Price Control Law.

At the other end of Alabama the Tolan Committee on Interstate Migration of Defense Workers found a similar situation at Huntsville, where thousands of workers had been attracted by huge chemical plants. They found:

Workers attracted by jobs there were paying $55 and $60 for houses normally renting for $30—if there were any houses at all.

Two Shift Beds

Hundreds of workers had left their families behind and were living in overcrowded boarding houses, sometimes with one bed being rented out to two men on different shifts.

Lack of housing had resulted in deteriorated health, education, recreation and decent living standards, and had put a heavy burden on local hospital, school, police and fire protection facilities.

Bad living conditions are actually sabotaging production because they encourage men to stay away from the plants for unscheduled days off, they hasten turnover, thus requiring expanded training programs, and increased work spoilage by untrained or hastily trained workers.

Some workers have to hitchhike as much as 40 miles to work and back.

Members of the Tolan Committee, commenting upon the crowded conditions revealed in their own investigations and others undertaken by government bodies, have pointed to a number of ways to solve the problems which arise.

Proposed Solutions

Most important is the utilization of existing labor supplies. Two biggest sources of such unused or under-used labor in the South are Negroes and women. In Mobile, for example, while thousands of white workers were imported and trained, thousands of resident Negroes, unemployed or partially employed, were denied training and jobs. Already housed, had they been offered training and job security their use would have done much to solve a severe municipal problem before it had grown as acute as it is today.

Another solution is to hasten the conversion to war production of idle plants, or plants now engaged in civilian production, in communities where there remains an unused supply of labor.

A third is to put housing in war-crowded towns on a rationed basis, requiring existing housing facilities to be used by essential workers under a local housing authority which would lease such quarters for the duration.

A fourth is the development of adequate transportation programs for workers living within commuting distance of the production center. This can be done both through car pools among worker-drivers, and the conversion of existing public transportation systems to mesh with staggered hours of work in war plants.

Mothers Get Help

Duval County (Fla.) mothers who want to make sure their youngsters are getting good body-building diets have been invited to make use of the Nutrition-Consumers Information Center now being operated by the home and community services of the county and Jacksonville's Civilian Defense Council.

Wardens Handle Plans for Pooling Cars

Charlotte, N. C., has 2,900 air raid wardens who are not content to wait for bombing forays to serve the community. They have tackled the job of organizing neighborhood car pools in the city as a measure to conserve gasoline, oil and rubber. Share-your-car questionnaires were distributed to all applicants for A-cards by the local rationing authorities under arrangements with the chief of the air raid service.

How U. S. Neighborhoods Are Being Put On Wartime Footing

Every American neighborhood has sent some of its sons to war. Those boys are fighting all over the world for one purpose: to win for all of us the right to live together as free men in a free world. Backing up those soldiers and sailors and marines must be every family in every neighborhood, each doing its level best to win the war on the Inner Front just as those boys are doing their best to win it on the fighting fronts.

At home the neighborhoods are part of the civilian defense army. If your neighborhood is not organized for action in that army, you can do your part in supporting the fighters by seeing to it that no time is lost in putting your neighborhood on a war footing.

The Block Plan

The Office of Civilian Defense has prepared a plan, the Block Plan, which is easy to understand and which ought to be put to work in every community in the South. If your local Defense Council has not yet begun to organize that plan, then you can perform a real service to your country by doing what you can to see that the Defense Council acts at once to set up that system of neighborhood action.

How It Works

This is how it works. Every community—rural or city—is divided into blocks or neighborhoods. In many rural areas this has already been done by the county agent and the county war board. In each block or neighborhood there is a leader, in some cases elected by the families in the area, in others appointed by the Defense Council.

Each block leader is responsible to a sector leader, who is in turn responsible to the chief of the Civilian Volunteer Services in your city or county.

The job of the block leader is to see that the families in his block are kept informed on the citizen's job in winning the war. Perhaps one week he explains how to save grease in the kitchen, and where to take it. Another week he lists the small children of working mothers who need neighborhood nursery care. Another week his message concerns the price control program and how consumers can help enforce it.

To be able to carry out his job, the block leader—who may be a man or a woman — must understand what this war is about. He should be able to see the immense importance of saving bacon fat, or buying war stamps, or collecting old iron — see it in terms of the lives of the boys from his block who are off fighting this war.

Selecting Local Leaders

The reason why the block system is best for civilian mobilization is that it makes possible the most representative kind of civilian defense organization. Maybe one part of town is where factory workers live—it's right that the leaders there should be factory workers and their wives. Another part of town is perhaps a Negro neighborhood, and it's right that the Negro citizens should choose their own leaders. Still another section of the community may be of different character—and its neighborhood leaders should be representative of that section.

Besides distributing information, every block leader should stimulate neighborhood action. For instance, in a rural community, it's a good idea for families to plan their trips to town in such a way that only one car or wagon makes the trip, thus saving rubber and gas on the car, and leaving a mule or horse free to do necessary work on the farm.

In your neighborhood there may be a church or school house which could be used for frequent neighborhood meetings where these neighborhood war problems can be talked over. Such a place would be a good center for a neighborhood "Make and Mend" clubs,

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What You Can Do

Every citizen will understand his part in the war better if he will get a copy of the little booklet, "What Can I Do?", a citizen's handbook for war, published by the Office of Civilian Defense. Easy-to-understand, amusingly illustrated by the famous cartoonist, Gluyas Williams, the booklet should be in every household in the land. You may get a copy by writing the Office of Civilian Defense, DuPont Circle Building, Washington, D. C.

Another helpful booklet is "The Block Plan of Organization for Civilian War Services," also available at that address, which tells you in detail how to organize your town in order to put every neighborhood on a war footing.

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It's a People's War

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in the spirit of the South.

This is a fight by free men for a free world victory.

There remain among us people, lost in the mists of long ago, who continue actively to delay the full productiveness of the South's enormous human and natural resources. They fight local, state and Federal actions which would release the South for a greater part in the Nation's wartime job than the South now plays.

Speaking the truth simply, The SOUTHERN PATRIOT will seek to help in mobilizing every person, every resource of the entire South to the cause of the United Nations and a free world victory.

First Negro V-Home

First Negro V-Home reported in the Nation is that of Eugene Jackson, Washington, D. C. Mr. Jackson is a group warden in charge of feeding and housing in his defense area, and the rest of the family are volunteers.

Southerners in Congress Write Soak-the-Poor Tax Bill

Southern Senators and Congressmen were instrumental in framing the new tax bill—a measure which protects the wealthy few at the expense of the many poor.

The bill was framed by two committees both headed by Southerners—the House Ways and Means Committee, headed by Rep. Robert M. Doughton, of North Carolina, and the Senate Finance Committee, chairmaned by Senator Walter George, of Georgia.

George Helps Corporations

George had more influence in the final shaping of the bill. He was the author of the gross income tax, which the Senate substituted for the higher corporation taxes in the House bill, and for the ability-to-pay tax proposals by the Treasury.

This tax will take away five per cent of all income above $12 a week, regardless of whether the taxpayer is married or single. It is designed to raise more than $3,000,000,000, much of it from 15,000,000 married couples who make so little that they escape income taxes even under the lowered exemptions in the new law.

As the tax bill came to George's committee from the House it raised almost as much money from corporations as from individuals. But by the time his committee had cut more than $1,000,000,000 off corporation taxes, and added the gross income tax on top of existing income taxes, the total was $5,000,000,000 for individuals and $1,200,000,000 for corporations.

Doughton Against Little Man

Doughton could have stopped this if he had tried. The House had over-ruled him and voted higher corporate taxes than his committee proposed, and would have stuck with him if he had made a fight against the gross income tax. But the Senate's proposal was closer to what Doughton had stood for in the first place.

Both Doughton's and George's committees completely ignored Treasury proposals for raising much of the revenue from the one source where it would do least harm and be most fair—from taxpayers now escaping taxes through loop-holes in the law.

The Treasury asked for three major loop-hole plugging revisions of the law to raise almost $1,000,000,000. Not one of them was approved by either committee. The Senate Committee didn't even consider them—although Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., based his entire program on them.

Nor did either committee consider the Treasury's proposal to raise $300,000,000 from increases in the death taxes—estate and gift levies. They left the law with enough loop-holes so that a rich man can pass on, without tax, well over $100,000.

The Result of the Bill

Thanks to George and Doughton, millions of Southerners who have never paid income taxes are going to be hit—some of them by two taxes on the same income. The gross income tax applies to anyone making more than $624 a year—the regular income tax to any single person making more than $500, any married couple making more than $1,200, with $300 allowed for each dependent.

And while they provided for a total of about 25,000,000 new income taxpayers, the two committees rejected all Treasury proposals for putting the income tax system on a pay-as-you-earn basis, so that the little man could pay his taxes as he earns his money instead of getting socked the following year with a big bill, and the little fellows are going to find it a lot harder to pay them than would have the big people who are escaping through loop-holes.—N.R.

Small Farmers Seen as Best Hope for More Production

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more food and fats to energize its soldiers and workers as well as millions of people in other lands, Southern agriculture has the opportunity to halt 50 years of steady deterioration of its soil and of the people who live on the land.

And it is the little farmers of the South who are in the strongest position to convert from cotton to the things we need. It is the family-size farmer of the South—whether small owner, tenant or "cropper"—who is in a position to do this job and help himself at the same time.

For a long while little farmers in the South have quietly preached an important wartime fact: big farms, relying heavily on hired hands and machinery, have always produced close to the limit because the more they produced, the lower was the cost per bushel or pound; little farms, with no labor supply but the family and few mechanical aids, have not produced anywhere near their limit.

Importance of Small Farmer

Now, they point out, when war demands more and more from the land, it's the little fellow who must deliver the goods, since shortages of both labor and machinery hit the big farms hard.

In support of their position they point to countless examples of small farmers rising to the occasion:

Pearl Harbor put peanuts in top place as a source of oil, since U. S. soapmakers and munitions plants can no longer get oils in the Far East (cocoanut, palm, etc.). Farm security borrowers in Arkansas, all small farmers, upped their production this year to grow over half of the increased peanut crop asked of the state.

Near Anniston, Ala., 21 farm families were uprooted to make room for Fort McClelland. FSA helped resettle them on nearby places, loaned them money to buy 10 to 12 milk cows each. They hadn't been dairymen before, but FSA's county supervisor helped them master the art of coaxing milk from cows, build the needed barns, raise feed crops. Now those 21 farmers are sending 400 gallons of milk a day to feed soldiers at Fort McClelland.

For years farmers in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama have thrown up their hands at the suggestion that they raise May chicks. "It can't be done," they said. "They'll die every time." Yet, in 1941, FSA loaned 54 thousand little farmers in those states money to buy 100 chicks apiece. They raised five million of them. A year ago they delivered the first shipment of dressed poultry to Craig Field, Alabama. By the end of the year they had marketed 2,500,000 cockerels. Pullets kept to lay were turning out half a million eggs a day.

One bulwark on which the Nation will lean heavily is FSA's "family council" system, under which borrowers in a neighborhood meet together to work out their problems. Out of such councils have grown hundreds of mutual associations, small farm co-ops which borrow money from Uncle Sam to finance the purchase of a piece of machinery, a purebred bull, or some other item requiring more money than one man can repay. The wartime record of FSA's vestpocket co-ops is a feather in America's cap of which everybody can be proud.

Here are some of the win-the-war production increases of one group of co-ops:

Eggs, 110 per cent; improved permanent pasture, 300 percent; soybeans, 260 percent; truck gardens, 50 percent; baby chicks, 85 per cent; pigs, 95 percent.

These little farmers of the sprawling South are changing the South's agricultural economy from dependence upon other places for food while the South grows cotton, to independence in questions of food; and freedom likewise from the bitter evils of the one-crop system.

Photograph by Mydans.

The Farm Security Administration is helping thousands of small farmers, like this one in North Carolina, to increase their production of milk and essential food.

Nelson Expects Labor-Management Plan to Up Production 25%

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the bench are drawn upon to help solve production problems. Time and again, faced with schedules which seemed impossible to meet, they have turned to the workers and found the answer—a new method here, a short cut there, a rearrangement of sub-assemblies at that plant, a new kind of die.

Here are production gains that demand no new plants, no priorities for materials, no precious time for extensive surveys. These are production gains which come out of people's heads, out of the native ingenuity of free American workers.

Southern Industries Named

A recent release of the production drive headquarters cited eight southern industries using the labor-management committee successfully to step up production, to increase conservation gains, to prevent waste and spoilage of work. Typical of the 82 firms using this plan, they are:

Continental Piston Ring, Memphis; Cumbustion Engineering, Chattanooga; Ingalls Iron Works, Birmingham; Guiberson Diesel, Dallas; Westinghouse, Atlanta; Consolidated Steel, Orange, Texas; and the Du Pont plant at Baton Rouge.

New Ideas Rewarded

Biggest labor-management job is the solicitation of ideas for production improvements from workers. Convenient suggestion boxes invite employees to submit their plans. The committee examines them, puts the good ones to work, rewards the worker with a cash or war bond bonus.

Other projects include plant scrap campaigns, safety programs, bond sale drives, car pools, housing surveys and similar tasks closely related to production and the winning of the war on the home front. Everything the committee does has only one purpose: to make that plant more effective in winning the war.

Since more than a million of the South's industrial workers are not now subject to the planning help of such committees, the Tolan Committee's warning that American labor's effectiveness will decide this war points up the need for extending the system to plants throughout the South, for workers in labor-management plants are doing the outstanding production jobs.

The South's industrial plants can provide an enormous share of Donald Nelson's 25 percent production increase goal. Establishing labor-management committees is one important way to see that the South does its share.

Southern businessmen will find that southern labor leaders are willing and able to cooperate with them in putting this program of cooperation into effect. At their disposal is the experience in hundreds of other plants where production committees have been functioning for months. They will have ideas on how to convert idle plants to war production, how to step up output in meeting schedules, how to utilize existing labor supplies efficiently so as to avoid the problems of overcrowding and low morale which grow out of transporting workers from far places.

Labor pirating, waste, spoilage, accidents, sickness, "absenteeism" and other wartime evils of working under terrific pressures are all problems that labor can help solve. Given an opportunity to sit down with management, represented by committee members of their own choosing, southern labor is capable of making enormous contributions toward stepping up the production in southern plants.

Mrs. Colin P. Kelly, mother of the Nation's first hero of World War II, was among the first residents of Madison, Florida, to receive a V-Home certificate. These red, white and blue window emblems mark homes which have gone all-out for war participation.

Texas Trains Negro Raid Group

The first civilian defense protection school reported for Negroes in Texas was held recently at Prairie View College. Forty-six Texas and Louisiana volunteers were graduated from the course. Most of the graduates, including eight women, were on leave from their regular employment for the duration of the school.

Neighborhood Organization

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where mothers could bring their mending one afternoon a week and talk together about price control, or how to cook healthful meals on a small budget, or how to save woolens for the soldiers by making over old clothes.

It's a people's war, as the President has said. The way to make it a real people's war where you live is to get together with your neighbors and work as a group at the dozens of tasks which must be carried out on the home front.

Suppose there are ten blocks or neighborhoods in each sector. Each block or neighborhood leader should be in charge of some special field. Perhaps one block leader is a union member's wife who is on a consumer committee in her auxiliary. She'd make a good consumer expert for the sector. Another leader might have gardening for a hobby. He'd make a good Victory Garden expert for the community. Perhaps a third is handy at fixing things around the house. That leader would be a good man to take charge of a program to conserve and keep in shape all the appliances in the sector. Another block leader may have a reputation as a seamstress. She could assist all the leaders in the sector to set up "Make and Mend" clubs in their neighborhoods. And so on.

Always seek ways to act together—that's the best way to make this a people's war in your own neighborhood.